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ADVANCE REPORT ON THE HIRED FARM WORKING FORCE OF 1962

Farm Population Branch
Economic and Statistical Analysis Division
Economic Research Service

Over 3.6 million different persons did some farm wage work during 1962. This is slightly greater than the 1961 total of 3.5 million, and about the same as that for most other years since the Korean War (table 1). The 1962 estimate of the farm wage force is the latest in a series that has been published for most years since 1945. It is based on data collected for the Economic Research Service by the Bureau of the Census as a part of the December 1962 Current Population Survey (CPS). Included are the latest information on duration of employment, annual earnings, and composition of the hired farm working force in the United States. The 1962 survey also obtained special information on household characteristics and family income. These data, as well as a more detailed analysis of the data contained herein, will be published in "The Hired Farm Working Force of 1962," now in preparation.

As in recent years, about one worker in eight reported 250 days or more of farm wage work. There was a small increase in the number of workers employed 25 days or more and little change in those doing less than 25 days of farm wage work.

The number of migratory workers declined slightly for the third straight year and in 1962 numbered 380,000, or 10 percent of all farm wage workers. There was no significant change in the sex or age composition of the hired farm working force (tables 2 and 3).

Earnings

Farm wage workers reported average cash earnings of $896 in 1962 from both farm and nonfarm wages (table 4), up from $788 in 1961. However, many of these workers are housewives or students with only a casual attachment to the farm labor force. If these and other casual workers (those who did less than 25 days of farm wage work) are excluded, the average annual cash wage from farm and nonfarm work was $1,164 in 1962 (table 5), compared with $1,054 in 1961.

Average daily earnings (again, excluding the "casual" workers) at farm work also showed an increase to $6.80 per day worked, up from $6.55 a year ago. Among noncasual workers, migrants reported average daily wages of $7.50 from farm work, nonmigrants $6.70 (table 6). However, migrants were employed for only 116 days, on the average, while nonmigrants were employed for 137 days at farm work, so that annual earnings from farm work for nonmigrants exceeded that for migratory workers by about 5 percent.

Men whose chief activity was farm wage work and who were heads of households earned average yearly cash wages of $2,115, nearly all of it from farm wage work (table 7).

Chief activity

The hired farm working force is increasingly made up of persons who enter

Table 1.--Farm wage workers who did any farm wage work during the year, by sex, United States, selected years, 1945-62

Year	All farm wage workers			Workers with 25 days or more of farm wage work during the year			Workers with less than 25 days of farm wage work during the year		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.
1945	3,212	2,375	837	1,965	1,576	389	1,247	799	448
1946	2,770	2,120	650	1,953	1,584	369	817	536	281
1947	3,394	2,587	807	2,215	1,864	351	1,179	723	456
1948	3,752	2,820	932	2,502	2,036	466	1,250	784	466
1949	4,140	3,021	1,119	2,510	2,001	509	1,630	1,020	610
1950	4,342	3,221	1,121	---	---	---	---	---	---
1951	3,274	2,392	882	2,156	1,718	438	1,118	674	444
1952	2,980	2,218	762	1,972	1,558	414	1,008	660	348
1954	3,009	2,237	772	1,908	1,544	364	1,101	693	408
1956	3,575	2,525	1,050	2,078	1,553	525	1,497	972	525
1957	3,962	2,765	1,197	2,200	1,673	527	1,762	1,092	670
1958	4,212	2,987	1,225	2,319	1,788	531	1,893	1,199	694
1959	3,577	2,570	1,007	2,166	1,690	476	1,412	880	531
1960	3,693	2,664	1,029	2,162	1,698	463	1,531	966	566
1961	3,488	2,445	1,043	1,889	1,468	421	1,600	978	622
1962	3,622	2,551	1,071	2,067	1,576	492	1,555	976	579

Figures for workers for 1959 and succeeding years are rounded to the nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals.

the labor force only temporarily. In 1962, one-half of all workers and over one-third of the noncasuals (those who did 25 days or more of farm wage work during the year) remained outside the labor force during most of the year. For example, the chief activity of almost a million persons who did farm wage work was "going to school" (table 3). This trend has been in progress since the end of World War II (fig. 1); in 1962, housewives, students, and others not in the labor force made up 37 percent of all noncasual workers. Figure 1 shows that over the past decade and a half, worker's whose chief activity was farm wage work dropped from about 55 percent to only 38 percent of all workers reporting 25 days or more of farm employment. This points up the continuing trend toward greater reliance on short-term seasonal workers.

COMPARABILITY OF DATA

The data in this report relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population at the time of the survey. Excluded from the survey are persons under 14 years of age who did farm wage work, and foreign nationals imported temporarily into this country to do farm wage work and who had returned to their homes before the survey was made. Although changes have been made in the sample design of the Current Population Surveys over the years, the data are sufficiently comparable to supply a continuous series since 1945.

As in all sample surveys, the estimates are subject to sampling variability. Small figures and minor differences between estimates or in year-to-year changes must be interpreted with this in mind. The results are also subject to errors of response and reporting.

The data for 1962 are from preliminary tabulations and are subject to correction when final tabulations are complete. This does not apply to the data for earlier years.

Table 2.--Persons who did 25 days or more of farm wage work, by specified characteristics, United States, selected years, 1952-62

Year	Migratory status		Sex		Color	
	Migratory	Non-migratory	Male	Female	White	Nonwhite
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1952	15	85	79	21	69	31
1954	15	85	81	19	70	30
1956	14	86	75	25	67	33
1957	15	85	76	24	68	32
1958	---	---	77	23	67	33
1959	16	84	78	22	63	37
1960	15	85	79	21	61	39
1961	16	84	76	24	66	34
1962	14	86	76	24	68	32

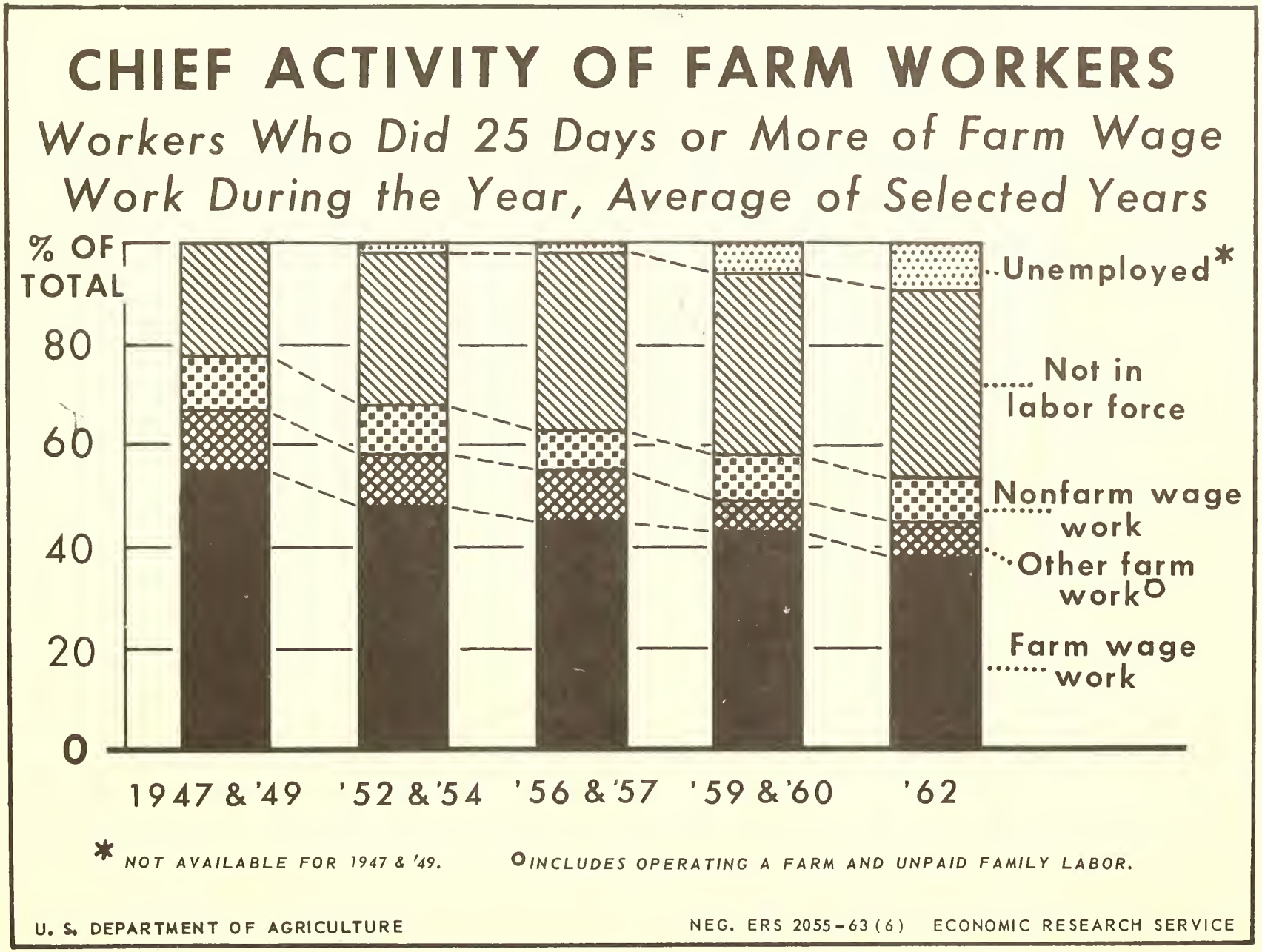
CHIEF ACTIVITY OF FARM WORKERS
Workers Who Did 25 Days or More of Farm Wage Work During the Year, Average of Selected Years
% OF TOTAL
80
60
40
20
0
1947 & '49
'52 & '54
'56 & '57
'59 & '60
'62
Unemployed*
Not in labor force
Nonfarm wage work
Other farm work°
Farm wage work
* NOT AVAILABLE FOR 1947 & '49.
° INCLUDES OPERATING A FARM AND UNPAID FAMILY LABOR.
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Figure 1

Table 3.--Number of farm wage workers with selected characteristics by duration of farm wage work, and sex of worker, United States, 1962

Selected characteristics	All farm wage workers			Workers with 25 days or more of farm wage work during the year			Workers with less than 25 days of farm wage work during the year		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.
Total	3,622	2,551	1,071	2,067	1,576	492	1,555	976	579
Age of worker:									
14-17 years	930	694	236	366	266	99	565	428	137
18-34	1,220	857	363	765	592	173	455	265	190
35-64	1,318	887	431	854	652	202	464	235	229
65 and over	154	113	41	83	65	18	71	48	23
Region:									
Northeast	286	220	66	166	147	19	120	73	47
North Central	715	620	95	361	330	31	354	290	64
South	1,971	1,218	753	1,127	759	368	844	459	385
West	651	494	157	414	339	74	237	154	83
Migratory status and color:									
Migratory	380	286	94	288	230	59	92	56	36
White	303	241	63	226	191	35	77	49	28
Nonwhite	77	45	32	62	38	24	15	7	8
Nonmigratory	3,242	2,265	977	1,779	1,346	433	1,463	919	544
White	2,239	1,684	555	1,172	970	202	1,066	714	353
Nonwhite	1,003	581	422	606	375	231	397	206	191
Chief activity:									
Farm work	1,147	1,053	94	942	867	75	205	187	19
Farm wage work	795	728	67	788	721	67	7	7	---
Other farm work 1/	353	326	27	154	146	8	199	180	19
Nonfarm work	411	348	63	186	162	24	225	186	39
Unemployed	271	229	41	182	156	26	89	74	15
Not in labor force	1,794	921	873	758	391	366	1,036	529	507
Housework	635	16	619	271	11	260	364	5	359
School	961	721	240	377	273	104	584	448	136
Other	197	184	14	109	107	2	88	76	12
Type of farm labor: 2/									
Hand labor	2,345	1,307	1,038	1,161	690	470	1,184	617	567
With machine	879	852	26	554	538	16	325	315	10
With livestock	395	389	7	349	344	5	46	45	2
Household status and color:									
Household heads	1,489	1,325	164	1,018	945	72	471	380	92
White	1,111	1,032	79	733	711	22	378	321	57
Nonwhite	378	293	85	284	234	50	93	59	35
Other members	2,133	1,226	907	1,050	630	420	1,084	596	488
White	1,431	893	538	665	451	214	766	442	324
Nonwhite	702	333	369	384	179	205	318	154	164

1/ Includes operating a farm and unpaid family labor.
2/ Excludes workers whose type of farm labor was not available.

Figures for workers are rounded to the nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals.

Table 4.--Average days worked and wages earned at farm and nonfarm wage work by sex of worker, and duration of farm wage work, United States, 1962

Sex of worker, and duration of farm wage work	Number of workers	Farm and nonfarm			Farm			Nonfarm		
		Days worked	Wages earned		Days worked	Wages earned		Days worked	Wages earned	
			Per year	Per day 1/ worked		Per year	Per day 1/ worked		Per year	Per day 1/ worked
	Thou.	No.	Dol.	Dol.	No.	Dol.	Dol.	No.	Dol.	Dol.
United States	3,622	115	896	7.80	81	549	6.80	34	347	10.15
Less than 25 days	1,555	55	540	9.80	10	65	6.45	45	475	10.60
25-74	933	76	518	6.85	44	215	4.95	32	303	9.40
75-149	408	143	983	6.85	106	614	5.80	37	369	9.90
150-249	284	218	1,460	6.70	191	1,200	6.30	27	260	9.75
250 or more	442	317	2,504	7.90	315	2,477	7.85	2	27	10.90
Male	2,551	139	1,163	8.35	99	712	7.20	40	451	11.20
Less than 25 days	976	68	760	11.15	10	76	7.55	58	684	11.75
25-74	588	87	691	8.00	44	242	5.55	43	449	10.45
75-149	315	149	1,109	7.45	108	665	6.15	41	444	10.85
150-249	248	222	1,548	6.95	194	1,269	6.55	28	279	9.85
250 or more	425	317	2,555	8.05	315	2,528	8.00	2	27	11.25
Female	1,071	58	259	4.45	39	160	4.15	19	99	5.10
Less tnan 25 days	579	33	169	5.20	10	46	4.60	23	123	5.45
25-74	346	58	224	3.90	44	170	3.85	14	54	3.95
75-149	93	126	560	4.45	101	443	4.40	25	117	4.70
150 or more	53	223	946	4.25	212	857	4.05	11	89	8.15

1/ Rounded to the nearest 5 cents.
Figures for workers are rounded to the nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals.

Table 5.--Average days worked and wages earned at farm and nonfarm wage work by workers who did 25 days or more of farm wage work, by region, color, and sex of worker, United States, 1962

Region, color, and sex of worker	Number of workers	Farm and nonfarm			Farm			Nonfarm		
		Days worked	Wages earned		Days worked	Wages earned		Days worked	Wages earned	
			Per year	Per day 1/ worked		Per year	Per day 1/ worked		Per year	Per day 1/ worked
	Thou.	No.	Dol.	Dol.	No.	Dol.	Dol.	No.	Dol.	Dol.
United States	2,067	160	1,164	7.25	134	913	6.80	26	251	9.65
White	1,398	175	1,399	8.00	145	1,083	7.45	30	316	10.70
Male	1,162	192	1,597	8.30	159	1,232	7.75	33	365	11.15
Female	237	92	426	4.65	78	351	4.50	14	75	5.50
Nonwhite	669	130	671	5.15	111	556	5.00	19	115	6.15
Male	414	158	894	5.70	138	748	5.45	20	146	7.45
Female	255	85	308	3.60	68	243	3.60	17	65	3.75
Northeast	166	229	1,948	8.50	191	1,489	7.80	38	459	12.05
White	141	235	1,987	8.45	196	1,507	7.70	39	480	12.20
Nonwhite	2/25									
North Central	361	182	1,381	7.60	143	938	6.55	39	443	11.40
White	331	191	1,472	7.70	149	991	6.65	42	481	11.45
Nonwhite	2/30									
South	1,127	140	808	5.80	122	689	5.65	18	119	6.55
White	574	154	1,067	6.90	136	917	6.75	18	150	8.15
Nonwhite	553	125	538	4.30	107	451	4.20	18	87	4.85
West	414	169	1,628	9.60	138	1,269	9.15	31	359	11.40
White	352	169	1,637	9.65	137	1,272	9.25	32	365	11.45
Nonwhite	62	173	1,575	9.10	144	1,253	8.70	29	322	11.15

1/ Rounded to nearest 5 cents. 2/ Averages not shown for less than 50,000 persons.

Figures for workers are rounded to the nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals.

Table 6.--Average days worked and wages earned at farm and nonfarm wage work by workers who did 25 days or more of farm wage work, by migratory status, color, and sex of worker, United States, 1962

Migratory status, color, and sex of worker	Number of workers	Farm and nonfarm			Farm			Nonfarm		
		Days worked	Wages earned		Days worked	Wages earned		Days worked	Wages earned	
			Per year	Per day 1/ worked		Per year	Per day 1/ worked		Per year	Per day 1/ worked
	Thou.	No.	Dol.	Dol.	No.	Dol.	Dol.	No.	Dol.	Dol.
United States	2,067	160	1,164	7.25	134	913	6.80	26	251	9.65
Migratory	288	141	1,123	8.00	116	874	7.50	25	249	10.20
White	226	142	1,202	8.40	119	936	7.85	23	266	11.30
Male	191	153	1,323	8.65	131	1,041	7.95	22	282	12.90
Female	2/ 35									
Nonwhite	62	133	839	6.30	105	649	6.20	28	190	6.75
Male	2/ 38									
Female	2/ 24									
Nonmigratory	1,779	163	1,170	7.15	137	919	6.70	26	251	9.55
White	1,172	181	1,438	7.95	150	1,112	7.40	31	326	10.60
Male	970	200	1,651	8.25	165	1,270	7.70	35	381	10.95
Female	202	92	408	4.40	82	350	4.30	10	58	5.50
Nonwhite	606	130	654	5.05	112	546	4.90	18	108	6.05
Male	375	157	872	5.55	139	736	5.30	18	136	7.55
Female	231	86	300	3.50	68	238	3.50	18	62	3.55

1/ Rounded to the nearest 5 cents.
2/ Averages not shown for less than 50,000 persons.
Figures for workers are rounded to the nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals.

Table 7.--Average days worked and wages earned at farm and nonfarm wage work by males who did 25 days or more of farm wage work and whose chief activity was farm wage work, by household status, and color, United States, 1962

Household status, and color	Number of workers	Farm and nonfarm			Farm			Nonfarm		
		Days worked	Wages earned		Days worked	Wages earned		Days worked	Wages earned	
			Per year	Per day 1/ worked		Per year	Per day 1/ worked		Per year	Per day 1/ worked
	Thou.	No.	Dol.	Dol.	No.	Dol.	Dol.	No.	Dol.	Dol.
Total	721	247	1,916	7.75	237	1,823	7.70	10	93	9.20
Household heads	549	255	2,115	8.30	245	2,024	8.25	10	91	9.45
White	408	262	2,343	8.95	252	2,249	8.90	10	94	9.90
Nonwhite	140	233	1,452	6.25	223	1,371	6.15	10	81	8.20
Other household members	172	224	1,282	5.70	213	1,184	5.55	11	98	8.60
White	117	238	1,393	5.85	225	1,283	5.70	13	110	8.60
Nonwhite	55	197	1,046	5.30	189	973	5.15	8	73	8.65

1/ Rounded to the nearest 5 cents
Figures for workers are rounded to the nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals.